

**...helping students with  
disabilities achieve their full  
potential**

**Missouri Youth Leadership Forum**

## TESTIMONIALS FROM PREVIOUS DELEGATES:

"I met other young people with disabilities and we immediately understood each other."

"It made me proud of who I am... I feel better about myself... I can be a leader... I am glad I am a MYLF delegate."

"MYLF was a fantastic experience that I will never forget."

"When my mom dropped me off, I can remember telling her I didn't think I wanted to stay! Four days later when my mom returned, she tells me I had a whole different attitude! She is right! It was an amazing experience!! This Forum changed my life!"

"I learned more about leadership skills and to be a part of a disability culture."

"I learned that even if you are disabled you can do anything."

"We really did share our experiences with each other and learned from each other."

"I liked the speaker on disability culture. I never realized there was such a thing."

## HOW TO APPLY

Download an application at:  
[www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/  
gcd/2009ylf.shtm](http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/gcd/2009ylf.shtm)

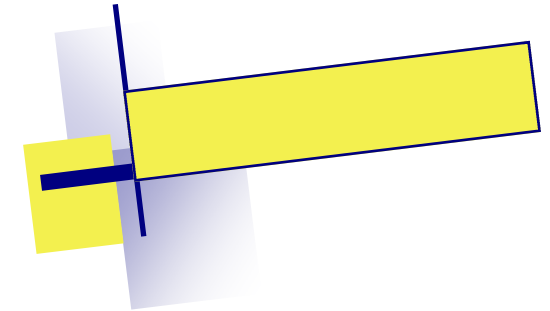
Once you have completed the  
application, please mail or fax it to:  
**Missouri Youth Leadership Forum  
Governor's Council on Disability  
PO Box 1668  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1668**

**Phone: 800-877-8249  
Fax: 573-526-4109  
Email: [gcd@oa.mo.gov](mailto:gcd@oa.mo.gov)**

Additional information and the application  
deadline can be found on our website at  
[www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/  
gcd/2009ylf.shtml](http://www.disabilityinfo.mo.gov/gcd/2009ylf.shtml)

**For more information, please contact:**

**Belle Harris at 800-877-8249 or e-mail:  
[Isabelle.harris@oa.mo.gov](mailto:Isabelle.harris@oa.mo.gov)**



## Missouri Youth Leadership Forum



**For Students with Disabilities**

## MISSOURI YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum (MYLF) is a unique career leadership-training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. Youth delegates are selected from their local communities to cultivate leadership, citizenship, and social skills.

The four-day program is held during the summer at the University of Missouri in Columbia, which provides accessible residential accommodations.

### WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE MYLF

- Develop leadership skills to ensure that all youth with disabilities will obtain their full potential
- Promote inclusion in all aspects of society: nation, state, and local levels
- Participate in policymaking or practices that affect young people with disabilities



MYLF Participants visit the Missouri State Capitol to meet with Legislators

### WHY IS MYLF ONLY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES?

It is important for students with disabilities to meet other students who are dealing with similar issues. Through the course of four days, students build pride and self-esteem and learn from each other. In a sense, they build a supporting community.

The key success to the MYLF is Leadership by Example! As part of the program, students meet successful adults with disabilities who share similar challenges. This framework provides an atmosphere of encouragement, helping youth realize their ability and pursue meaningful employment to become contributing members of society.



Youth delegates gather inside the University of Missouri in Columbia

### HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED?

Youth are selected through statewide competition that seeks students with disabilities who have leadership potential. Each applicant submits a standard application, essay, and three references.

The student delegates will represent a cross section of Missouri in terms of geography, gender, economic status, ethnicity, and different types of disabilities.

### WHAT IS THE AGENDA?

1. Leadership principles and their application.
2. The disability experience and resource sharing.
3. Assistive technology and resources.
4. The development and achievement of career goals and independent living.
5. Developing advocacy skills.



Youth delegates learn to advocate for themselves during a mock legislative session with legislators

### WHAT IS THE COST?

This program is available to the student delegates at no cost.

If you would like to help defray the cost of this program, please make your tax-deductible donation to MYLF and mail to:

Governor's Council on Disability/MYLF  
301 West High Street, Suite 250-A  
PO Box 1668  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-1668